

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair DeLauro and Leahy, Ranking Member Granger and Vice Chairman Shelby:

We are requesting emergency supplemental appropriations as soon as possible for the New Jersey region in the wake of Wednesday night's destruction caused by Tropical Storm Ida. To date, the storm has taken 27 lives in New Jersey — more fatalities than in any other state in the Northeast.¹ While the recovery and damage assessment continue, we ask that you act swiftly so that we can get Jersey's families, small businesses, and local governments back on their feet.

On Wednesday night, September 1, the remnants of Hurricane Ida slammed the Garden State with raging flash floods, tornadoes, and record rainfall. At Newark Liberty International Airport, the National Weather Service reported severe flooding with 3.24 in. of rain in only a one-hour span.² Not only were flights canceled, but NJ Transit suspended almost all of its rail service and over 80,000 people lost power.³

New Jersey faces a long, difficult road to recovery from Tropical Storm Ida. In fact, the damage in many parts of the state is worse than the aftermath caused by Hurricane Sandy, which rightly merited an emergency supplemental funding bill. The storm caused the tragic and heartbreaking deaths of over two dozen people, left hundreds homeless, crippled our infrastructure and transportation networks, and damaged countless homes and small businesses.

We are thankful to President Biden for his approval on September 2 of an Emergency Declaration and on September 5 of a Major Disaster Declaration that included six New Jersey

¹ 'Governor Murphy Provides Update on Preliminary Fatalities from Tropical Storm Ida,' *NJ.Gov*, Sept. 3, 2021, <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/09/idas-nj-death-toll-rises-to-27-among-deadliest-in-state-history.html>

² Choi-Schagrin, Winston, 'Ida Drenches New York and New Jersey,' *New York Times*, Sept. 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/09/01/us/hurricane-ida-updates>

³ Katzban, Nicholas, 'Power restoration making progress in North Jersey after remnants of Ida,' *NorthJersey.Com*, Sept. 1, 2021, <https://www.northjersey.com/story/weather/2021/09/01/hurricane-ida-weather-thousands-without-power-north-jersey/5691143001/>

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counties. We hope that the remaining counties impacted by the storm are included in the next disaster declaration. While these approvals are essential first steps, an emergency supplemental funding bill is needed for the many thousands of people who suffered catastrophic damage to their homes who will undoubtedly need more assistance in the long-term. We are also encouraged that on September 7 the White House announced support for additional emergency funds for areas impacted by Hurricane Ida and other natural disasters.

Let's show the American people that we can still come together to help each other in our most desperate time of need. We will rebuild and come out stronger on the other side. We thank you for your attention and consideration of our request for emergency supplemental appropriations for the state of New Jersey and surrounding areas to deal with the aftermath of Tropical Storm Ida.

Sincerely,



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

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Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Donald Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
CC: The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Senate Majority Leader